Capitol Comments

BY DAN DANIEL
FIFTH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON - FEB. 8 - Last week's newspapers carried a critical article regarding the lack of knowledge among high school students in the area of government and public affairs. While these results are highly disturbing, had I read the report at some earlier time, it would have been even more distressing. Several events of recent weeks persuade me that, while the problem is undoubtedly serious, it is not universal.

In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to meet with students at several high schools in the Fifth District, and their attitudes and questions reveal an unexpected depth of understanding, not just of the functions of government, but of national problems. This feeling was further strengthened last month.

I had the opportunity to participate in Class II of this year's series of Presidential Classrooms for Young Americans on January 24. These students have been selected from throughout the United States and some foreign countries on the basis of leadership and scholastic excellence, to participate in an intensive one-week program here in Washington. Among last week's participants were Senator Richard Lugar; Justice Thurgood Marshall; George Vest, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs; Richard Fleming, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development ; General Bernard Rogers, Chief of Staff, United States Army; and Paul Chretien, Senior Briefing Officer, Central Intelligence Agency. Five of the six classes, I am proud to advise you, include students from our own Fifth District.

Why, one young man asked, did the President recommend tax cuts for business, when his stated purpose was to stimulate the economy? I explained to him, as I have to other students in our District, that business tax cuts mean investment in jobs, that jobs create personal income and that a greater number of jobholders represent a greater number of taxpayers and thus (hopefully) more people to bear the tax burden. I pointed out that the experts in government and in the media had been remiss in not pointing out that tax cuts for business and industry are not rewards; they are incentives to accomplish the very worthwhile goal of creating opportunities for productive employment, as opposed to the use of tax revenues to provide non-productive, short-term jobs.

Another raised the not-unreasonable - sounding question, "How can you claim government spending causes inflaiton, when the government spends in the billions and the GNP is in the trillions?" The questioner seemed to quickly grasp the explanation that government spending is primarily non-productive spending, in that no item or service results which can be traded in the marketplace, and further that government borrowing forces up the cost of borrowing for some government purposes. In addition, government spending in excess of revenues adds to inflation by imposing a debt burden of enormous proportions. This year's interest payment of nearly $44 billion is nearly three times that of just 10 years ago, and money paid out in interest is money not available to the government or more importantly - the taxpayer. Interest payments do not "buy" something; they just pay off obligations of the past.

"Don't you think," one student asked, "that some people make entirely too much of the devaluation of the dollar overseas?" My response was that while some temporary benefits could accrue under certain circumstances, I did not think enough was made of it, pointing out that the same devaluation which made American products more attractive to foreign buyers made foreign products more expensive for us and that when you consider the high volume of goods we import, the matter is serious indeed. Beyond the very real problem that dollars are leaving the country at a more rapid rate than they are coming in, there is the psychological effect. When the rest of the world comes to view us as a debtor nation, as was the recent case was Britain, we lose our effectiveness in pursuing our national interests in international circles. Person or nation, you cannot bargain effectively from weakness.

It was a stimulating and worthwhile undertaking.

NEW STUDY ON EXPORT STANDARDS

Commissioner S. Mason Carbaugh of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce is one of three commissioners selected to serve on a special 16 member committee to study the implications of a new standards code being developed that would prevent technical barriers to trade.

The study is being undertaken by Public Technology Incorporated (PTI) under contract to the Office of Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Executive Office of the President.

Commissioner Carbaugh said, that he welcomed the opportunity to make an input to the work being done in International Trade. "Although in some ways this is a highly technical area and perhaps is not readily understood without detailed study, the implications could be pretty significant for Virginia agricultural and other exporters. It will be dealing with the size, shape and contents or makeup of packages of goods that have been for some reason refused admittance to some ports of the world."

Commenting on the importance of the committee, Commissioner Carbaugh said, "Unless international standards can be adopted for a wide range of products, each exporter must concern himself with the standards prevailing in the importing country, and to meet the wide variation of these standards that could exist, the exporter would find his cost greatly increased or his ability to ship into that country reduced or possibly eliminated."

The committee on which the Commissioner will serve represents a cross seciton of the United States and will be asked to provide information on the state and local government viewpoints on the probable requirements of the proposed standards and how to make them effective while minimizing compliance problems.

The committee is scheduled to meet in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 9 and 10 with representatives from the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, the U. S. Department of Commerce, the National Bureau of Standards and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A standards code was first developed between 1971 and 1973 and attempted to establish international rules concerning the procedures by which standards are prepared, adopted and applied.

Goode Named To Craddock-Terry Board

Lewis B. Goode, Jr. was elected to the Board of Directors of Craddock-Terry Shoe Corp. at its annual meeting of stockholders held January 28 in Lynchburg.

A native of Lynchburg, Goode is president of Fidelity American Bank and executive vice president of Fidelity American Bankshares, Inc. He also is executive at Hampden-Sydney College and is a graduate of the Virginia-Maryland School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia.

He began his banking career at Peoples Bank & Trust Company in Chase City and was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at the time that bank merged with Fidelity in 1966.

In 1969 he was transferred to Lynchburg with responsibilities involving Fidelity American Banksshares, Inc., the registered bank holding company which had been organized that year by Fidelity and American National Bank of Portsmouth. In 1973 he was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Fidelity American Bank, the holding company's lead bank, and in 1974 he was elected Executive Vice President of Fidelity American Banksshares. He is also a Director of both the holding company and the bank, and serves as a Director of Fidelity American Computer Services, Inc., Columbia Advisory Corporation, and the Virginia Industrial Loan Authority in Richmond.

He serves on the Board of Randolph - Macon Woman's College, Virginia Episcopal School, Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, and the Virginia Council on Economic Education, and is currently serving as Vice President of the Longwood College Foundation Board. He has held numerous offices in the Virginia Bankers Association and is presently serving on its Bank Management Committee.

Directors reelected at the stockholders meeting were Jack F. Almond,R. Frank Dunlockridge, president; Jack F. Almond, vice president - merchandising; Roland M. Newman, vice president - marketing; Roland K. Peters, administrative vice president; G. Gilmer Craddock, Jr., vice president - sales; S. Preston Craighill, Jr., vice president - sales; Elias Richard III, vice president and secretary; and Cyril L. Kincaid, treasurer and controller.

Con-Terra Holds Arts & Crafts Festival

The Con-Terra Woman's Club of Concord held its annual Arts & Crafts Festival, Mon., Feb. 6, at the United Methodist Church in Rustburg. Also participating were the members of the Rustburg Woman's Club who were co-sponsors.

This year's chairman, Mrs. Melvin Giles, was in charge of decorating the refreshment table. She used a red cloth, dotted with white lace valentines, a silver candlebra with red candles as her centerpiece. Assisting Mrs. Giles with registration of the crafts were Mrs. Otis Henderson, Mrs. W. V. Strain, Mrs. Kenneth Walsh, and Mrs. Carolyn Lawhorne.

Judging for the Arts division was held earlier in the day. Mrs. F. K. Perrow, Altavista and Mrs. Pat Harrington, Lynchburg judged the entries from the Rustburg High School Art Department.

While each club held a brief business meeting, crafts were judged by Mrs. Bernard Aklin, Lynchburg; Mrs. Anna Sloan, Rustburg; and Mrs. C. B. Feagans, Concord.

The following winners were announced:

Kit Korner - Crewel - Blue, Mrs. W. V. Strain

Crocheting - Afghans, Blue, Mrs. Otis Henderson, Red. Mrs. Kenneth Franklin.

Crocheting - Children's apparel, infant to four years - Blue - Mrs. Kenneth Franklin.

Crocheting - Miscellaneous - Blue - Mrs. Otis Henderson

Embroidery - thread - Blue - Mrs. Kenneth Lawhorne

Embroidery - liguid - Blue - Mrs. Kenneth McCullough

Quilting - pillows - Blue - Mrs. Robert Carroll.

Macrame - Blue, red and yellow - Mrs. W. V. Strain

Crafty Creatures - Blue - Mrs. Kenneth Walsh

Ceramics - Overglaze - Blue - Mrs. Roy Bennette

Ceramics - Stain - Blue and red - Mrs. Roy Bennette; yellow, Mrs. Kenneth McCullough

Framed Flowers - Blue - Mrs. Melvin Giles.

Christmas Decorations - Door - Blue, Mrs. Robert Carroll; Red, Mrs. Melvin Giles.

Christmas Decoration - Ornaments - Blue, Mrs. Kenneth McCullough.

Miscellaneous Creations - Decorative crafts - Blue - Mrs. Wiley Warner, Jr. and Mrs. Roy Bennette, blue also

Miscellaneous Creations - Needle Crafts - Red, Mrs. David Porter.

Each of the blue ribbon winners will be judged at the district level several months from now.

Mrs. W. W. Warner, Jr.,Sec.

Va. Taxpayers To Pay $11.4 Billion In Federal Taxes

Virginia taxpayers will be required to pay approximately $11.4 billion in Federal taxes as their share of the cost of the Federal spending budget of $500.2 billion proposed by President Carter for the 1979 Federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 1978, according to an estimate today by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce.

This estimate was based on the Virginia Chamber's calculations that Virginia taxpayers bear 2.28 per cent of all Federal taxes.

The State Chamber pointed out that any change which Congress may make in this budget will reduce or increase the amount that Virginia taxpayers will have to bear depending on whether Congress cuts or spends more.

RECEIVES PROMOTION

FEB 7 - Marine Private First Class Earl W. Thornton, son of Mary Katherine of Route 4, Box 117, Appomattox, Va., has been promoted to his present rank while serving with the 2nd Marine Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He joined the Marine Corps in December 1976.

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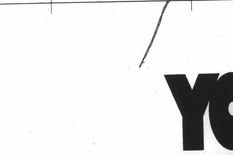

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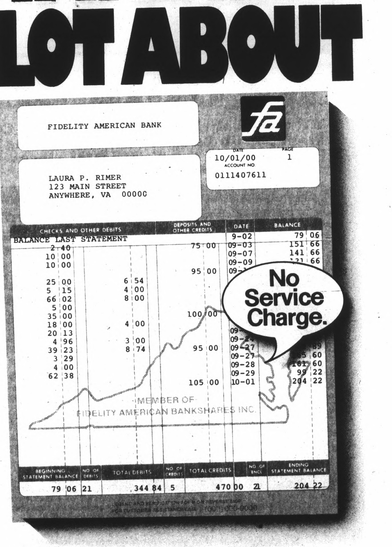

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

BY
CALVIN ROBINSON

This week has been proclaimed National Brotherhood Week and that is a worthwhile concept. A few more days left in February and in our area it could have been much worse, weatherwise. Everyone was braced for severe weather this past week end, but it was shot that way at all. I walked down to my flower garden area and some of the bulbs planted last fall were springing into action. Ah yes, there will be more winter weather, but there is an early Easter this year and we are due a better growing year than we had in '77.

* * *

Thanks for a copy of the Vero Beach, Florida, Press-Journal, brought to me by Mrs. Rachel F. Lawson and sent by Howlette B. Martin, Jr., who with his mother, has returned from a stay in the Sunshine State, where Mrs. Lawson joined them for a visit. Another friend who has returned from Florida was reporting ripe tomatoes in lower Florida, even as light snow was hitting a few spots. Weather patterns this season have provided conversation all over and we have been able to keep up with what's going on all over the nation.

* * *

Saw my friend, C. Roland Smith and was asking if this was the year for town elections in Oakville. Oakville is doing all right and is one of our county showplaces.

* * *

So many people take a special interest in birds and can identify the various species who flock around homes during winter. Mrs. Susie Martin phoned in to give the names of some of the birds who have been using my bird feeder. The little fellow was a brick-colored head and neck is the common redpoll, related to the finch family. Other bird visitors were identified as evening grosbeaks. Yesterday I had four chickadees at one time. Two red cardinals are regulars.

* * *

Often when I drive along Route 460 and pass the huge furniture plant, with its sprawling structure, huge parking space and providing such stimulus to our economy, I recall the days when the entire area was our golf course. I have not played golf since, although Falling River Country Club offers excellent facilities. The old course offered challenges, including water hazards. But even before that, Appomattox had its golf course, on Route 24, opposite No. Two service station. Most of my golf partners of those days are gone now, the late Joel W. Flood, R. L. Burke, Jerry Burke, Dr. D. N. Twyman, etc. And we always had caddies in those days, and no golf carts. Seldom used more than five golf clubs. No water hazard but had to get through or over some tall trees to reach the tiny sand greens. Who could hit a golf ball the hardest? I'd say Chap Davidson. Brightleaf was a golf fan and usually had a good score. We had matches with other clubs. I recall going to Crewe for a match, many years ago. Golf is a good game and for all ages.

* * *

Washington's birthday gives us occasion to recall that a fabulous man he was, how varied his excellence and how sound his leadership. He lived in an era of great leaders and challenging times. Read all you can about him. I would say that any age in any land would be enriched by the likes of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, plus the associates at their side. America, the Beautiful is more than a song; it is our heritage and our treasure to keep and develop to its fullest.

The Times-Virginian is filled with news and important advertising, and read all of it each and every week. Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

ROBERT W. CARTER SPEAKS AT CAREER ASSEMBLY

Robert W. Carter, Sr., Attorney-at-Law, was guest speaker at Career Assembly on Wednesday, February 15, 1978, at Appomattox County High School. Law as a career was the topic. Information consisted of educational requirements, outlook, related job opportunities, salary, and satisfactions derived from a career in law.

Following the assembly, students are shown above discussing questions addressed to Mr. Carter. Shown from left to right are Shavonne Johnson,Loretta Lettner, Beth Smoak, Mr. Robert Carter, Mark Paulette, Bernice Melvor, Sheena Watts, and Robert Dyess.

Loretta Lettner, secretary of the Career Council, introduced the speaker. The monthly assemblies are sponsored by the Guidance Department of Appomattox County High School.

Westvaco's Seedling Program Open To Virginia Landowners

Cooperative Forest Management Supervisor, Andy Dresser would like to remind Virginia landowners that it is still not too late to take advantage of Westvaco's Matching Seedling Program. Landowners wishing to plant pine seedlings are urged to get their orders in NOW.

Under the Matching Seedling Program free loblolly, Virginia, shortleaf, white and red pines are available to landowners on a matching basis in 65 Virginia counties. According to Dreszer, landowners can receive up to 20,000 free seedlings on a one for one matching basis for seedlings purchased by the landowner from the Virginia Division of Forestry. "The program", says Dreszer, "effectively reduces the landowners seedling costs by one half. This year in Virginia Westvaco has already given away more than one million seedlings."

The major objective of Westvaco's program is to provide for the reforestation of abandoned and/or cutover land. To qualify the landowner must reforest his land with the understanding that the seedlings provided be grown and later harvested for forest products.

Westvaco will upon request also furnish free a package of 100 wildlife food plants to recipients of matched seedlings. The package will contain some 50 bicolor lespedeza plants and 20 autumn olive seedlings.

In addition, Westvaco will furnish up to 1,000 free seedlings at tree planting member of an organized youth group including 4-H, FFA, and Scouts. Up to 5,000 trees may be secured to start or expand school forests.

For more information on Westvaco's Matching Seedling Program, contact your local county forester with the Virginia Division of Forestry or write: Westvaco CFM, P. O. Box 998, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Don't wait. Place your seedling order now!

Bloodmobile Falls To Reach Quota

Despite the weather conditions and the near flu epidemic in our area, 104 persons came out last Thursday and donated a unit of blood at the regular visit to Appomattox of the Red Cross Bloodmobile. Our county is still short of its quota but we know that this shortage will be made up at the next visit.

Mrs. Jennie Towns, Appomattox County Chairman of the Blood Program, would like to express deep appreciation and gratitude to those of you who braved the adverse weather during the last two visits of the bloodmobile, December 20, 1977 and February 16, 1978, to come out and donate blood and time to this most worthwhile cause.

While we are a total of 39 pints behind our quota for these two visits, you did your part and the county owes you a debt of gratitude for it.

First time donors during these two visits included Brenda Ramadell, Tim Ramadell, Ronald Harvey, Warren Coleman, Patricia Diane Ragland, Patricia Lloyd Hudson, James Carlton Harris, Glen Duff, Bill Vaughan, Leslie Hammer, Aileen Timberlake, David L. Covington, Charles Hammer, Daniel Stratton, E. Marshall Stratton, III. Becoming one-gallon donors were Miranda King Dunn, Patricia Jane Butler, Harry Ferguson, Jr., Amy Scott Garrett, Evelyn Y. Crain, Everyn Ann Heising Ford, and Roger Bruce Clark.

Two gallon donors included Williard C. Johnson, Jr., Penny Davis, Phillip Bass Lozado, and Nancy Elizabeth Hall. James Douglas Marshall and Alden Zane Hamlin were three gallon donors; five gallon donors included Howard E. Ferguson and John Warwick Canada; Carolyn Childers Godsey is a six gallon donor and James O. Carter is a nine gallon donor.

The people listed above are included in that elite 3% of the county population which supplies blood for 100% of the population.

Mrs. Towns also would like to thank the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club for doing their usual fine job of recruiting the invaluable volunteer workers and the Presbyterian Women for running the canteen.

Thanks also from Mrs. Towns to Liberty Baptist Church for the use of their facilities, WTTX, The Times-Virginian.

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Deadline Set For Candidates To File For Town Election

The filing deadline for candidates to file for mayor or member of the Appomattox town council is March 7th no later than 7 p.m.

Candidates must file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appomattox County.

Blood Pressure Clinic Planned

"We're Fighting For Your Life" says the American Heart Association.

You can feel great, but still have high blood pressure even if you're young and healthy. High blood pressure can be controlled. If left alone, it can easily kill.

The American Heart Association says "Have your blood pressure checked today."

Blood Pressure clinics have been planned for Appomattox County citizens on Wed., Feb. 22 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. and on Sat., Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at American Federal Savings & Loan Association, Triangle Plaza Shopping Center.

The clinic is FREE so stop by on one of these days, it may be the most important stop you've made in a long time.

MARCH 7TH DEADLINE TO SIGN FOR TOWN ELECTIONS

Residents in the Town of Pamplin who wish to be a candidate for Mayor or Councilman in the May Town election, must sign up at the Clerk's office in Appomattox before March 7, 1978. Candidates must have 30-day residency in the town.

WSET TV Program To Honor Dr. Bowman

On Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m., during the regular time for the Sunday School lesson program WSET TV station in Lynchburg will eulogize Dr. J. J. Bowman who passed away Saturday, February 25.

Dr. Bowman, well known minister throughout the area, taught the Sunday School Lesson each Saturday morning on this television station for a number of years prior to his death. We feel the citizens of the county will want to tune in on Saturday morning and see and hear this program honoring Dr. Bowman.

Oral Cancer Detection Clinic Planned For Sunday Afternoon

Dr. S. R. Lawson and Dr. John Fedison, local dentists and General Chairman of the Mouth Cancer Detection Clinic to be held Sunday afternoon, report that final preparations are being made for the clinic.

The Appomattox County Unit of the American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteers to serve as hostesses and guides during the clinic.

Assisting Dr. Lawson and Dr. Fedison with the clinic will be four dentists and two oral surgeons from Lynchburg.

The clinic will be held in the offices of Dr. Lawson and Dr. Fedison on Court Street and will open for registration at 12 noon Sunday and will continue to register until 4 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to register and have the examination whether or not they have had a recent dental examination or treatment. Persons who no longer have teeth or who wear upper or lower dentures are particularly urged to attend. Cancer of the mouth is one of the easiest cancers to detect and treat in its early stages, but if is not treated it can be among the most serious of all cancers.

The examination will include a study of the facial features, the lips, cheeks, gums, tongue, and the roof and floor of the mouth. It will take approximately 3 to 5 minutes for the dentist to make the examination and to insure if the patient has any visual signs of possible oral disease. If further tests are required, area oral surgeons will be available to make or complete the tests. The examination and tests are FREE, including any counseling service that might be required at a later date.

Although mouth cancer is generally a disease of persons over forty years of age, all area residents over twenty-one are encouraged to attend. Persons under twenty-one will be examined also if they are aware of some unusual condition in or about the mouth.

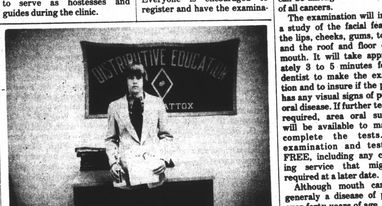
Mouth cancer is generally PAINLESS in its earliest stages, and many persons are not aware of its growth until it is too late. Possible early signs include hard or soft (spongy) spots, a sore that does not heal, unusual bleeding or discharge, red or white spots or areas on mouth tissue, a swelling or thickening in the head or neck area. More often, these signs will be indications of a less serious or harmless condition, but let your dentist be the judge.

In the ten-year period from 1957 to 1968, the deaths of Virginians with oral or mouth cancer increased 55 percent as compared to a 25 percent increase for all cancer deaths in the same period of time and the rate of increase continues.

Estimates vary between 13,000 and 50,000 new cases of oral or mouth cancer in the United States each year, with approximately 6,000 reported deaths. Many of these deaths could have been averted if these cases were diagnosed in time to permit successful treatment.

The clinic is being sponsored by the Lynchburg Dental Society and the Appomatox County Unit of the American Cancer Society and the Appomattox County Health Department in cooperation with the Division of Dental Health of the Virginia Department of Health.

Take advantage of this great opportunity. Come out Sunday between the hours of 12 noon and 4 p.m., bring a friend and make sure that you are SAFE from oral cancer detection clinic.



ACHS Student To Represent DECA At State Conference

Linwood Elliott, a junior at Appomattox County High School, represented the ACHS Chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America at the annual Blue Ridge Regional Competitive Events for Distributive Education held at E. C. Glass High School on February 5, 1978. Linwood, who works at Webb's Tire Company, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Elliott of Route 2, Appomattox.

Linwood was entered into the General Merchandise Event because of his work experience at Webb's) where he competed with about 60 other students. Linwood was tested in three different instructional areas pertaining to General Merchandise and they were Display, Human Relations and Product and Service Technology. Linwood finished second out of the 60 students and earned the right to represent the Blue Ridge Region at the Distributive Education Clubs of America State Conference held at The Hotel Roanoke in March.

The Appomattox County Distributive Education Clubs of America Chapter is proud to have Linwood as treasurer and wish him luck in Roanoke.

Soil & Water Conservation District Considered Impact of Project

At its February meeting, the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District considered the impact of conservation implications of the proposed Randolph Hydroelectric project on the Staunton River. Dr. Allan A. Hoffman, Danville, a member of the Virginia Commission of Game & Inland Fisheries, discussed the impact of the proposed project on the striped bass. Dr. Hoffman said that striped bass eggs must remain suspended for 48 hours in running water. It requires 50 to 60 miles of river with a good flow to get reproduction. "The Staunton River is one of two places in the world that has good striped bass reproduction. Any dam would probably make the striped bass extinct in Virginia or render it too diminished for sport fishing," he said.

The Virginia striped bass is estimated to generate 32 million dollars cash flow annually. "In addition, we would be losing about 30,000 acres of our finest farmland and forestland in Virginia and one of the finest canoeing rivers in the state," Hoffman said.

The Randolph site is a very inefficient site according to Hoffman. The area is so flat that only 66 ft. of head pressure could be developed. Hydroelectric dams in mountainous terrain have potential for several hundred feet of pressure. This project will cost 4 times more to produce hydroelectric power than any existing site in Virginia, he reported.

Scenic river designation seems to be the best way to protect the Staunton River with its unique biological phenomenon, Hoffman believes. "We can place it in the stewardship of our elected officials rather than letting a colonel with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or a Judge in Washington, who neither has ever been to see the River nor has any responsibility to the people of Virginia, decide on the fate of this stream," he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Crowther accompanied Dr. Hoffman.

The Conservation District voted to draft a resolution of opposition to the proposed project and adopt it at the March meeting.

In other business, Warren Friend, Soil Conservation Service, (SCS), and District Director, Edwin Fitzgerald of Amherst, reported that progress is being made in relocating the Mill Creek dam in Amherst County. Geological investigation revealed that the proposed site was not suitable and the dam site is being moved about 1,200 ft. This is one of the 4 watershed lakes in the Buffalo River watershed project.

Bob McCleony, SCS, Appomattox, reported that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to survey below Leesville Dam February 27 - March 3. Severe streambank erosion is created by fluctuating water from the hydroelectric generation at Leesville. The Corps will design conservation structures to protect about ½ mile of critically eroding streambanks. This will be a demonstration project sponsored by the Robert E. Lee and Pittsylvania Conservation Districts. Plans are to install the conservation measures this fall.

Larry Holmes, SCS, Rustburg, reported that SCS has new standards for terraces which will make them easier to build and maintain. "Terraces are still one of the best conservation practices, especially for tobacco," he said.

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Vepco Request Surcharge

Virginia Electric and Power Company today filed a request with the Virginia State Corporation Commission for a temporary surcharge of 12.17 per cent, or about $118 million on an annual basis.

Stanley Ragone, Vepco president, said the company's request "... seeks only the fuel relief necessary to make up for the deficiency below the approved rate of return which occurred in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1977, and to have our new nuclear unit at North Anna go in service without creating a much greater deficiency." Permanent rate relief in the range of an additional eight per cent or $80 million would be sought later this year, he said.

He emphasized that the net impact on customers would be less because nuclear fuel costs less than coal or oil. "When the estimated North Anna fuel cost savings in the range of $50 million are taken into account, the net effect on customers of the interim request is an increase of about seven per cent," he said.

Based on the anticipated fuel savings, the net impact on customers of the seven per cent would be about $68 million annually, Mr. Ragone said.

"We are acutely aware of the impact of increased energy costs on customers, but inflation and rising costs have drastically increased the cost of producing electricity," Mr. Ragone said. "The plain truth is that we can't hold down the price of electricity when the cost of generating it continues to go up.

In its annual review filing last year, the company showed that its rate of return through June 20, 1977, was about 8.7 per cent - short of the approved 9.6 per cent level. The need for an adjustment in rate when a new generating unit goes into operation was aired fully in the 1976 rate case, which led to the only rate increase authorized in almost three-and-a-half years.

Emphasizing the urgency of the request, Mr. Ragone said the declines in the company's rates of return without the rate relief "... are sufficient to affect detrimentally the company's securities. This would substantially increase the cost of capital and be a real threat to the ability to raise capital in the quantities required.

"Immediate rate relief is essential to prevent the company's financial condition from worsening dramatically when North Anna Unit 1 goes into service," Mr. Ragone said.

Vepco's interim request consists of an increase of 3.7 per cent, that would produce $35.9 million on an annual basis, to cover the shortfall through last June; and an increase of 8.47 per cent, that would produce $82 million on an annual basis, to cover the costs associated with placing North Anna Unit 1 into service. The two parts add up to 12.17 per cent, or about $118 million annually. But from the customer's standpoint, the impact would be partially offset by the reduction in fuel costs attributable to North Anna Unit 1, estimated to be in the range of $50 million. The net effect on customers in an increase of about seven per cent, or about $68 million.

Vepco has asked the SCC to allow the surcharge to go

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Lions Club To Meet Tonight

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tonight, Thursday, at 6:45 p.m. at Maudes Restaurant.

Bill Powers of Farmville with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries will present a program on hunting and fishing. When you say hunting and fishing, you've said it all for most members of the Lions Club so all members will want to be present for this most interesting and informative meeting. During the program, Mr. Powers will emphasize penalties for those who do not follow the rules for hunting and fishing.

Members of the Lions Club are sponsoring the "Madison Lions" of James Madison University in concert on April 14th. Pre-sale tickets will be distributed at this meeting. The concert has been scheduled as a part of the annual effort of the Club to bring worthy entertainment to Appomattox. Buy your ticket early.

All members of the Lions Club will want to be present at tonight's meeting.